

# PURE INFINITENESS OF THE CROSSED PRODUCT OF AN AH-ALGEBRA BY AN ENDOMORPHISM

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

It has been shown by Deaconu, [De], and Anantharaman-Delaroche, [An], that the  $C^*$ -algebra of a local homeomorphism is the crossed product by an endomorphism of another  $C^*$ -algebra. As observed in [De] this implies that such an algebra is often infinite, and Anantharaman-Delaroche described in [An] a sufficient condition for the algebra to be purely infinite. Recall that a simple  $C^*$ -algebra is said to be purely infinite when all its non-zero hereditary  $C^*$ -subalgebras contain an infinite projection. Thanks to the classification result of Kirchberg and Phillips this means that the simple and purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras which arise from local homeomorphisms are classified by their K-theory groups, and it becomes therefore an important question to decide when the algebra of a local homeomorphism is simple and purely infinite.

In [R1] Rørdam proved that the crossed product by a full corner endomorphism of a simple unital  $C^*$ -algebra of real rank zero with comparability of projections is simple and purely infinite. In particular, the crossed product of a simple unital AF-algebra by such an endomorphism is simple and purely infinite. In the same paper Rørdam initiated also the classification of purely infinite simple  $C^*$ -algebras which was subsequently completed, mutatis mutandis, by the classification results of Kirchberg and Phillips mentioned above. Rørdam's result on the crossed product by an endomorphism has been extended and used by several other mathematicians, but in most of these results the initial algebra, the one with the endomorphism, hereafter called the *core*, is assumed to be simple and to have various other properties. The simplicity of the crossed product, as well as its pure infiniteness, is then a consequence. The work of Dykema and Rørdam in [KR] is an exception, but they assume some rather special properties of the endomorphism which are not easy to establish.

For the application to the  $C^*$ -algebras of a local homeomorphism it is a nuisance to have to assume simplicity of the core. When the algebra of a local homeomorphism is simple, the core may or may not be simple and hence the existing results, as the one of Rørdam, on crossed products by endomorphisms can generally only be used by imposing additional assumptions. It is the purpose of the present paper to obtain a result about the pure infiniteness of a crossed product by an endomorphism in which simplicity is assumed of the crossed product rather than of the core, and which is general enough to cover the  $C^*$ -algebra of a local homeomorphism; assuming only that it is simple. The following, which is the main result of the paper, is such a theorem. The definition of a 'unital AH-algebra with slow dimension growth' will be given in the next section.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $A$  be a unital AH-algebra with slow dimension growth. Let  $\beta : A \rightarrow A$  be an injective endomorphism such that*

- i)  $\beta(1)$  is a full projection in  $A$  (i.e.  $\overline{A\beta(1)A} = A$ ), and
- ii) there is no trace state  $\omega$  of  $A$  such that  $\omega \circ \beta = \omega$ .

*If the crossed product  $A \times_{\beta} \mathbb{N}$  is simple, it is also purely infinite.*

Applications of this result to the  $C^*$ -algebras of local homeomorphisms and locally injective surjections will be given in [CT].

It must be observed that the crossed product  $A \times_{\beta} \mathbb{N}$  in the theorem is not the same as the one which was introduced by W. Paschke and used by Rørdam in [R1] where it is assumed that  $\beta$  maps *onto* the corner  $\beta(1)A\beta(1)$ . In order to cover also the crossed products by endomorphisms arising from a locally injective surjection, which may not be open and hence not a local homeomorphism, cf. [Th1], we use instead the crossed product introduced by Stacey in [St]. It can be defined as the universal  $C^*$ -algebra generated by a copy of  $A$  and an isometry  $v$  with the property that  $vav^* = \beta(a)$ , [BKR], and hence it agrees with the one used by Dykema and Rørdam in [DR]. Compared to the crossed product of Paschke, it is not required that  $v^*Av \subseteq A$ . When  $\beta$  maps onto  $\beta(1)A\beta(1)$ , as is for example the case when the situation arises from a local homeomorphism as in [An], the two crossed products coincide.

The main strategy of the proof is due to Rørdam. In [R2] he proved that the crossed product of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  by an automorphism is (simple and) purely infinite when  $A$  is

- (1) - exact, finite and separable,
- (2) - simple,
- (3) - approximately divisible,

and has no densely defined non-zero trace which is invariant under the given automorphism. Although this is a result about an automorphism it has bearing on crossed products by endomorphisms since they can be realised as a corner in a crossed product by an automorphism.

The last condition in the above statement, about the absence of invariant traces, is of course necessary. The first conditions (1) are harmless and satisfied when the crossed product arises from one of the locally injective surjections we have in mind. As we explained above the assumed simplicity is an assumption we aim to move from the core to the crossed product, while approximate divisibility is a property which is hard to establish and about which we know next to nothing when the algebra comes from a local homeomorphism and the core is not simple. It is therefore interesting to observe that an important step in the following proof of Theorem 1.1 will be to show that a much weaker version of divisibility is automatic for unital AH-algebras with slow dimension growth.

## 2. TRACIAL ALMOST DIVISIBILITY FOR AH-ALGEBRAS WITH SLOW DIMENSION GROWTH

Let  $M_l$  denote the  $C^*$ -algebra of complex  $l \times l$ -matrices. In the following a *homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra* will be a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  isomorphic to a  $C^*$ -algebra of the form

$$eC(X, M_l)e$$

where  $X$  is a compact metric space and  $e$  is a projection in  $C(X, M_l)$  such that  $e(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in X$ . The *dimension ratio*  $r(A)$  of  $A$  is then defined to be the number

$$r(A) = \max_{x \in X} \frac{\dim X + 1}{\text{Rank } e(x)}.$$

**Definition 2.1.** A unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is an *AH-algebra* when there is an increasing sequence  $A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq A_3 \subseteq \dots$  of unital  $C^*$ -subalgebras of  $A$  such that  $A = \bigcup_n A_n$  and each  $A_n$  is a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra. We say that  $A$  has *slow dimension growth* when there is such a sequence with the additional property that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r(A_n) = 0$ .

There seems to be slightly varying definitions of slow dimension growth for AH-algebras and it should therefore be observed that with the above definition we insist that the rank of the projections increase without bounds even when all the involved topological spaces are zero-dimensional.

Let  $A$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra and  $a, b$  two positive elements of  $A$ . Recall, cf. e.g. [T], that  $a$  is *Cuntz subequivalent* to  $b$  when there is a sequence  $\{z_n\}$  in  $A$  such that  $a = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} z_n b z_n^*$ . We write  $a \preceq b$  when this holds. This notion extends the well known subequivalence in the sense of Murray-von Neumann used for projections.

In the following we denote by  $T(A)$  the convex set of trace states of a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . The next definition is inspired by Definition 2.5 (ii) of [W].

**Definition 2.2.** A unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is *tracially almost divisible* when the following holds: For any positive contraction  $h$  in  $A$  and any given  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  with the property that for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there are mutually orthogonal positive contractions  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_m$  in  $A$  such that

$$h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_m \preceq h$$

and

$$\tau(h_i) \geq \delta \tau(h) - \epsilon$$

for all  $i$  and all  $\tau \in T(A)$ .

As an important step towards the main result of the paper we prove first the following.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $A$  be a unital AH-algebra with slow dimension growth. Then  $A$  is tracially almost divisible.*

We will actually prove a slightly stronger result; namely that the  $\delta$  of Definition 2.2 can be chosen to be  $\frac{1}{4m}$ , independently of  $h$ . However, the proof of the main result will not require this strengthening of the conclusion.

The main tools for the proof of Proposition 2.3 are methods and results of A. Toms from [T] about Cuntz subequivalence in a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra. When  $A$  is a unital  $C^*$ -algebra and  $\tau \in T(A)$  there is associated to  $\tau$  a 'dimension function'  $d_\tau$  defined on positive contractions of  $A$  as

$$d_\tau(a) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau \left( a^{\frac{1}{n}} \right) = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \tau \left( a^{\frac{1}{n}} \right).$$

By Corollary 5.2 of [T] we have the following

**Theorem 2.4.** (*A. Toms*) Let  $A \simeq eC(X, M_l)e$  be a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra. Let  $a, b \in A$  be positive contractions such that

$$d_\tau(a) + \max_{x \in X} \frac{\dim X}{2 \operatorname{Rank} e(x)} \leq d_\tau(b)$$

for all  $\tau \in T(A)$ . It follows that  $a \preceq b$ .

Actually, the result in [T] is slightly stronger, but the above theorem suffices for our purposes.

**Lemma 2.5.** Let  $\epsilon \in ]0, \frac{1}{8}[$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $eC(X, M_l)e$  be a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra such that  $\operatorname{Rank} e(x) = M$  is constant and

$$\frac{\dim X + 1}{M} < \frac{\epsilon}{8m}.$$

It follows that for every positive contraction  $h \in eC(X, M_l)e$  there are  $m$  mutually orthogonal positive contractions  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_m$  in  $eC(X, M_l)e$  such that

$$h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_m \preceq h$$

and

$$\tau(h_i) \geq \frac{1}{4m} \tau(h) - 2\epsilon \quad (2.1)$$

for all  $i$  and all trace states  $\tau \in T(eC(X, M_l)e)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $j \geq 2$ , and set  $d = \dim X + 1$ . Since  $\frac{d}{M} < \frac{\epsilon}{4}$  we find that

$$\frac{(j - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{m} - \frac{d}{2Mm} - \frac{(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{2m} > \frac{(j - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{m} - \frac{\epsilon}{8m} - \frac{(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{2m} = \frac{(j - \frac{7}{4})\epsilon}{2m} \geq \frac{\epsilon}{8m}.$$

As  $\frac{1}{M} < \frac{\epsilon}{8m}$  these estimates show that there is a natural number  $\alpha_j$  such that

$$\frac{(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{2} \leq \frac{m\alpha_j}{M} < (j - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon - \frac{d}{2M}.$$

Note that we can arrange that  $\alpha_j \leq \alpha_{j+1}$ . Let  $J$  be the least natural number such that  $(J + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon \geq \frac{1}{2}$ . (The condition  $\epsilon < \frac{1}{8}$  ensures that  $J \geq 4$ .) Then

$$\frac{m\alpha_j}{M} \leq \frac{m\alpha_J}{M} \leq (J - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon - \frac{d}{2M} < 1$$

for  $2 \leq j \leq J$ . We can therefore choose mutually orthogonal trivial projections  $p_1^j, p_2^j, \dots, p_m^j$  in  $C(X, M_l)$  for each  $2 \leq j \leq J$  such that  $\operatorname{Rank} p_i^j = \alpha_j, i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , and such that

$$p_i^j \leq p_i^{j+1}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \quad 2 \leq j \leq J - 1.$$

Then

$$\operatorname{Rank} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m p_i^J \right) + \frac{d}{2} = m\alpha_J + \frac{d}{2} \leq (J - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon M \leq \frac{M}{2} \leq M = \operatorname{Rank} e$$

so the projection  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i^J$  is Murray-von Neumann equivalent to a subprojection of  $e$ ; this is a classical fact about vector bundles, but it follows also from Theorem 2.4. Consequently we may assume that  $p_i^j \in eC(X, M_l)e$  for all  $i, j$ , with the reduction that they may no longer be trivial projections. Set  $p_i^0 = p_i^1 = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

For each  $0 \leq j \leq J-1$  we choose a continuous function  $g_j : [(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon, (j + \frac{3}{2})\epsilon] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $g_j((j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon) = 1$  and  $g_j((j + \frac{3}{2})\epsilon) = 0$ . For each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , define a continuous function

$$H_i : [0, 1] \times X \rightarrow M_l$$

such that

$$H_i(t, x) = \begin{cases} 0, & t \in [0, \frac{1}{2}\epsilon], \\ g_j(t)p_i^j(x) + (1 - g_j(t))p_i^{j+1}(x), & t \in [(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon, (j + \frac{3}{2})\epsilon], \ 0 \leq j \leq J-1, \\ p_i^J(x), & t \geq (J + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon. \end{cases}$$

Then  $H_i(t, x)$  is a positive contraction and  $H_i(t, x)H_{i'}(t, x) = 0$ ,  $i \neq i'$ , for all  $t, x$ .

For each  $x \in X$  we consider the extremal trace state  $\tau_x$  of  $eC(X, M_l)e$  defined as  $\tau_x(f) = \text{tr}(f(x))$  where  $\text{tr}$  is the trace state of  $e(x)M_l e(x)$ . For each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  we define  $h'_i \in C(X, M_l)$  such that

$$h'_i(x) = H_i(\tau_x(h), x).$$

Note that the  $h'_i$ 's are mutually orthogonal positive contractions and that  $h'_i \in eC(X, M_l)e$  since  $e(x)H_i(t, x)e(x) = H_i(t, x)$  for all  $t, x$ .

Set

$$U = \left\{ x \in X : \tau_x(h) > (2 + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon \right\}$$

and consider an  $x \in \overline{U}$ . Then  $\tau_x(h) \in [(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon, (j + \frac{3}{2})\epsilon]$  for some  $2 \leq j \leq J-1$  or  $\tau_x(h) \geq (J + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon$ . In the first case we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_x(h'_i(x)) &= g_j(\tau_x(h)) \frac{\alpha_j}{M} + (1 - g_j(\tau_x(h))) \frac{\alpha_{j+1}}{M} \\ &\geq g_j(\tau_x(h)) \frac{(j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{2m} + (1 - g_j(\tau_x(h))) \frac{(j + \frac{3}{2})\epsilon}{2m} \geq \frac{\tau_x(h)}{2m} - \frac{\epsilon}{2m}, \end{aligned}$$

while

$$d_{\tau_x} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i \right) \leq \frac{m\alpha_{j+1}}{M} \leq (j + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon - \frac{d}{2M} \leq \tau_x(h) - \frac{d}{2M}.$$

When  $\tau_x(h) \geq (J + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon$  we find that

$$\tau_x(h'_i) = \frac{\alpha_J}{M} \geq \frac{(J + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon}{2m} \geq \frac{1}{4m} \geq \frac{1}{4m}\tau_x(h)$$

while

$$d_{\tau_x} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i \right) \leq \frac{m\alpha_J}{M} \leq (J - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon - \frac{d}{2M} \leq \tau_x(h) - \frac{d}{2M}.$$

All in all we conclude that

$$\tau_x(h'_i) \geq \frac{1}{4m}\tau_x(h) - \frac{\epsilon}{2}$$

and

$$d_{\tau_x} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i \right) \leq \tau_x(h) - \frac{d}{2M}$$

for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and all  $x \in \overline{U}$ .

If  $U = \emptyset$ , we set  $h_1 = h_2 = \dots = h_m = 0$ . Since  $0 \preceq h$  and  $\frac{1}{4m}\tau_x(h) \leq 2\epsilon$  for all  $x$  this will prove the lemma in this case. Assume therefore that  $U \neq \emptyset$ . Recall

that  $T(eC(\overline{U}, M_l)e)$  is the closed convex hull of  $\{\tau_x : x \in \overline{U}\}$ . Since  $d_{\tau_x}(\sum_{i=1}^m h'_i) \leq \tau_x(h) - \frac{d}{2M}$  for all  $x \in \overline{U}$ , and since

$$\tau \mapsto d_\tau \left( \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i|_{\overline{U}} \right) - \tau(h|_{\overline{U}}) + \frac{d}{2M}$$

is affine and lower semi-continuous on  $T(eC(\overline{U}, M_l)e)$  we find that

$$d_\tau \left( \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i|_{\overline{U}} \right) + \frac{d}{2M} \leq \tau(h|_{\overline{U}}) \leq d_\tau(h|_{\overline{U}})$$

for all  $\tau \in T(eC(\overline{U}, M_l)e)$ . Since  $\text{Dim } \overline{U} \leq \text{Dim } X$ , it follows from Theorem 2.4 that there is a sequence  $\{z_n\} \in eC(\overline{U}, M_l)e$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} z_n(x)h(x)z_n(x)^* = \sum_{i=1}^m h'_i(x)$$

uniformly in  $x \in \overline{U}$ . Set

$$K = \left\{ x \in X : \tau_x(h) \geq (3 + \frac{1}{2})\epsilon \right\}$$

and let  $\psi : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be a continuous function such that  $\psi(x) = 1, x \in K$ , and  $\text{supp } \psi \subseteq U$ . We consider  $\psi$  as a central element of  $eC(X, M_l)e$  in the obvious way. Let now

$$h_i = \psi h'_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

and set  $z'_n = z_n \sqrt{\psi} \in eC(X, M_l)e$ . Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} z'_n h z_n'^* = \sum_{i=1}^m h_i$$

and  $\tau_x(h_i) \geq \frac{1}{4m} \tau_x(h) - \epsilon$  for all  $x \in K$ . Since  $\frac{1}{4m} \tau_x(h) - 2\epsilon \leq \frac{4\epsilon}{4m} - 2\epsilon < 0 \leq \tau_x(h_i)$  when  $x \notin K$ , we obtain (2.1). □

*Proof of Proposition 2.3:* Consider a positive contraction  $b \in A$ . Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  be given. We will complete the proof by showing that there are mutually orthogonal positive contractions  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m$  in  $A$  such that  $b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_m \preceq b$  and  $\tau(b_i) \geq \frac{1}{4m} \tau(b) - 3\epsilon$  for all  $i$ .

Since  $A$  is an AH-algebra with slow dimension growth it follows from Lemma 2.5 (ii) in [KR] that there is a unital homogeneous  $C^*$ -sub-algebra  $1 \in B \subseteq A$  and a positive contraction  $a \in B$  such that  $r(B) < \frac{\epsilon}{8m}$ ,  $a \preceq b$  and  $\|a - b\| \leq \epsilon$ . Note that  $B$  is isomorphic to a direct sum

$$B \simeq \oplus_{j=1}^N e_j C(X_j, M_l) e_j$$

of homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebras such that  $\text{Rank } e_j(x) = K_j$  is constant on  $X_j$  and

$$\frac{\text{Dim } X_j + 1}{K_j} \leq r(B) < \frac{\epsilon}{8m}$$

for all  $j$ . We can therefore apply Lemma 2.5 to each summand and in this way obtain mutually orthogonal positive contractions  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m$  in  $B$  such that  $b_1 + b_2 + \dots +$

$b_m \preceq a$  and  $\tau(b_i) \geq \frac{1}{4m}\tau(a) - 2\epsilon$  for all  $\tau \in T(B)$ . Since  $\frac{1}{4m}\tau(a) \geq \frac{1}{4m}(\tau(b) - \epsilon) \geq \frac{1}{4m}\tau(b) - \epsilon$  for all  $\tau \in T(A)$ , we are done.  $\square$

### 3. PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT

In this section we prove Theorem 1.1 by an elaboration of Rørdams proof of Theorem 2.1 in [R2]. For this purpose we isolate the following lemmas. In the statement of the first we use the (standard) notation  $M_\infty(B)$  for the union  $\bigcup_n M_n(B)$ . Recall that a projection  $p \in B$  is *full* when  $\overline{BpB} = B$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $Z$  be a compact metric space of dimension  $\dim Z \leq d$  and let  $p \leq e \in C(Z, M_l)$  be projections. Assume that there is a natural number  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that*

$$\text{Rank } p(z) > (N+1)(N+2) \left\lceil \frac{d}{2} \right\rceil$$

*for all  $z \in Z$ , where  $\lceil \frac{d}{2} \rceil$  is the least natural number larger or equal to  $\frac{d}{2}$ . It follows that there is a projection  $p' \in M_\infty(eC(Z, M_l)e)$  such that*

$$N[p'] \leq [p] \leq (N+3)[p'] \quad (3.1)$$

*in  $K_0(eC(Z, M_l)e)$*

*Proof.* Let  $Z = Z_1 \sqcup Z_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup Z_k$  be a partition of  $Z$  by clopen sets such that  $\text{Rank } p$  is constant on each  $Z_j$ . Fix  $j$  and set  $d_j = \dim Z_j$ . Note that  $d_j \leq d$ . Write  $\text{Rank } p = l(N+1) \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil + r$  where  $l, r \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $1 \leq r \leq (N+1) \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil$ . Then  $l \geq N+2$  by assumption and hence

$$Nl \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil + l \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil < \text{Rank } p \leq Nl \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil + 2l \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil \quad (3.2)$$

on  $Z_j$ . Let  $q_j$  be a trivial projection on  $Z_j$  of constant rank  $l \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil$ . Since  $e|_{Z_j}$  is a full projection,  $q_j$  is equivalent to a projection  $p'_j$  in  $M_d(eC(Z_j, M_l)e)$  for some  $d$ . Since  $l \left\lceil \frac{d_j}{2} \right\rceil \geq \frac{d_j}{2}$  it follows from (3.2) and the theory of vector bundles (or Theorem 2.4), that  $N[p'_j] \leq [p|_{Z_j}] \leq (N+3)[p'_j]$  in  $K_0(eC(Z_j, M_l)e)$ . Set  $p' = \sum_j p'_j$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $A$  be a unital AH-algebra with slow dimension growth and  $A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq A_3 \subseteq \dots$  a sequence of homogeneous  $C^*$ -sub-algebras,*

$$A_n \simeq e_n C(X_n, M_{m_n}) e_n,$$

*such that  $1 \in A_1$ ,  $A = \overline{\bigcup_n A_n}$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r(A_n) = 0$ . Let  $p$  be a full projection in  $A$  and let  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. It follows that there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and a projection  $q \in A_n$  such that  $q$  is unitarily equivalent to  $p$  in  $A$  and*

$$\text{Rank } q(x) \geq K (\dim X_n + 1)$$

*for all  $x \in X_n$ .*

*Proof.* A standard argument shows that  $p$  is unitarily equivalent to a projection  $q$  in  $A_m$  for some  $m$ . Since  $p$  is full we can assume, by increasing  $m$ , that  $q$  is full in  $A_m$ . There is then a  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\text{Rank } q(x) \geq \frac{1}{k} \text{Rank } e_n(x)$  for all  $x \in X_n$ ,  $n \geq m$ . Therefore the desired inequality will hold for all sufficiently large  $n$  thanks to the slow dimension growth condition.  $\square$

Let  $a, b \in K_0(A)$ . In the following we write  $a \prec b$  when there is a full projection  $q$  in  $M_n(A)$  for some  $n$  such that  $b - a = [q]$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $A$  be an AH-algebra with slow dimension growth. Let  $e, f \in A$  be projections such that  $N[e] \prec N[f]$  in  $K_0(A)$  for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . It follows that  $[e] \prec [f]$  in  $K_0(A)$  and  $e \preceq f$  in  $A$ .*

*Proof.* It follows from Lemma 3.2 that the difference  $N[f] - N[e]$  is represented by a projection  $p$  in a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra, containing also projections  $e'$  and  $f'$ , unitarily equivalent to  $e$  and  $f$ , respectively, such that  $\inf_x \text{Rank } p(x)$  is greater than  $N + 1$  times the dimension of the spectrum. Then well known facts about vector bundles, or Theorem 2.4, show that in this algebra  $e'$  is equivalent to a subprojection  $e''$  of  $f'$  such that  $f' - e''$  is full. The lemma follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $B$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra with the property that  $B = \overline{\bigcup_n B_n}$  where  $B_1 \subseteq B_2 \subseteq B_3 \subseteq \dots$  are  $C^*$ -subalgebras of  $B$  each of which is a unital AH-algebra with slow dimension growth. Furthermore, assume that the unit of  $B_n$  is a full projection in  $B_{n+1}$  for each  $n$ . Let  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $B$  such that  $\omega \circ \alpha \neq \omega$  for all non-zero densely defined lower semi-continuous traces  $\omega$  on  $B$ . Assume that  $B \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  is simple. It follows that every full projection in  $B$  is infinite in  $B \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$ .*

*Proof.* We elaborate on Rørdams proof of Lemma 2.5 in [R2]. Let  $e$  be a full projection in  $B$ .

a) The first step is to show that there is an element  $x \in K_0(B)$  such that  $x \geq \alpha_*(x)$  and  $x \neq \alpha_*(x)$ . As in [R2] this follows from the absence of  $\alpha$ -invariant traces, by use of results of Blackadar, Rørdam and Goodearl, Handelman. We refer to [R2] for the details of the argument.

b) Let  $I \subseteq B$  be a non-zero ideal such that  $\alpha(I) \subseteq I$ . It follows that  $I = B$ . Indeed

$$J = \overline{\bigcup_{n \geq 0} \alpha^{-n}(I)}$$

is an ideal in  $B$  such that  $\alpha(J) = J$ . Since  $B \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  is simple it follows that  $J = B$ . In particular there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and an element  $b \in I$  such that  $\|\alpha^n(e) - b\| = \|e - \alpha^{-n}(b)\| < \frac{1}{3}$ . As is well-known this implies that  $I$  contains a projection equivalent to  $\alpha^n(e)$ . This projection is full in  $A$  since  $\alpha^n(e)$  is, whence  $I = B$ .

In the following we extend  $\alpha$  to  $M_n(B)$  for all  $n$  in the canonical way.

c) Let  $p \in M_n(B)$  be a projection such that  $[p] = x - \alpha_*(x)$  where  $x \in K_0(B)$  is the element from a). Since

$$\overline{\bigcup_k \{a_0 p b_0 + a_1 \alpha(p) b_1 + \dots + a_k \alpha^k(p) b_k : a_i, b_i \in M_n(B), i = 0, 1, \dots, k\}}$$

is a non-zero ideal  $I$  in  $M_n(B)$  such that  $\alpha(I) \subseteq I$ , it follows from b) that  $I = M_n(B)$  and hence it contains a full projection. By definition of  $I$  this implies that there is a  $k$  such that  $[p] + \alpha_*[p] + \alpha_*^2[p] + \dots + \alpha_*^k[p]$  is an order-unit in  $K_0(B)$ . Set  $y = x + \alpha_*(x) + \alpha_*^2(x) + \dots + \alpha_*^k(x)$ . Then  $y - \alpha_*(y) = [p] + \alpha_*[p] + \alpha_*^2[p] + \dots + \alpha_*^k[p]$ . By exchanging  $y$  for  $x$  we may therefore assume that  $x - \alpha_*(x) = [p]$  for some full projection  $p$  of  $M_\infty(B)$ , i.e.  $\alpha_*(x) \prec x$ .



d) Write  $x = g_1 - g_2$  where  $g_1, g_2 \in K_0(B)^+$ . We may assume that  $g_i \succ 0, i = 1, 2$ . There is an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$3g_1 + 3\alpha_*(g_2) \prec N(x - \alpha_*(x))$$

and

$$g_1 + \alpha_*(g_2) \prec N[e].$$

Note that since  $g_i \geq 0$  there are  $L, n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $g_i = [p_i]$  for some projection  $p_i$  in  $M_L(B_n)$ . Since in fact  $g_i \succ 0$  it follows from the assumption about the unit of  $B_n$  being full in  $B_{n+1}$  for each  $n$ , that we can assume that  $p_i$  is full in  $M_L(B_n)$ . It follows then from Lemma 3.2 that we can realise the projections  $p_i, i = 1, 2$ , in a homogeneous  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $M_L(B_n)$  such that the assumptions of Lemma 3.1 hold for both. In this way we get elements  $f_1, f_2 \in K_0(B)^+$  such that  $Nf_j \leq g_j \leq (N+3)f_j, j = 1, 2$ , and we set  $f = f_1 - f_2$ . Then

$$N[p] \succ 3g_1 + 3\alpha_*(g_2) \geq 3N(f_1 + \alpha_*(f_2))$$

which implies that  $[p] \succ 3(f_1 + \alpha_*(f_2))$  by Lemma 3.3. It follows first that

$$\begin{aligned} Nf &= x - (g_1 - Nf_1) + (g_2 - Nf_2) \\ &\geq \alpha_*(x) + [p] - 3f_1 \\ &= N\alpha_*(f) + \alpha_*((g_1 - Nf_1) - (g_2 - Nf_2)) + [p] - 3f_1 \\ &\geq N\alpha_*(f) + [p] - 3(f_1 + \alpha_*(f_2)) \succ N\alpha_*(f), \end{aligned}$$

and then from Lemma 3.3 that

$$f \succ \alpha_*(f). \quad (3.3)$$

Since  $N[e] \succ g_1 + \alpha_*(g_2) \geq N(f_1 + \alpha_*(f_2))$  we have also that  $[e] \succ f_1 + \alpha_*(f_2)$ . It follows then from Lemma 3.3 that there are projections  $p, q \in B$  such that  $[p] = f_1, [q] = f_2$  and  $p + \alpha(q) \leq e$ . Then  $[\alpha(p)] + [q] \prec [p] + [\alpha(q)]$  by (3.3) and another application of Lemma 3.3 implies that there is a partial isometry  $t \in M_2(B)$  such that

$$t \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(p) & 0 \\ 0 & q \end{pmatrix} t^* \leq \begin{pmatrix} p + \alpha(q) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$t \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(p) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$t \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $w, v \in B$  are partial isometries such that  $v^*v = \alpha(p)$ ,  $w^*w = q$  and  $v\alpha(p)v^* + wqw^* \leq p + \alpha(q)$ . Let  $u$  be the canonical unitary in the multiplier algebra of  $B \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  which implements  $\alpha$  on  $B$ . Set  $s = vup + wqu^* + (e - p - \alpha(q))$  and note that  $s^*s = p + \alpha(q) + (e - p - \alpha(q)) = e$  while  $ss^* = v\alpha(p)v^* + wqw^* + (e - p - \alpha(q)) \leq e$ .  $\square$

Let  $0 < \epsilon < \frac{1}{2}$  and define  $f_1^\epsilon, f_0^\epsilon : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that

$$f_1^\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \\ 1, & t \in [\epsilon, 1] \\ \text{linear}, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

and

$$f_0^\epsilon(t) = \max\{0, t - \epsilon\}.$$

**Lemma 3.5.** *There is a  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $\epsilon \in ]0, \frac{1}{2}[$  the following holds: When  $b, b'$  are positive contractions in a  $C^*$ -algebra  $B$  such that*

$$\|f_1^\epsilon(b) - f_1^\epsilon(b')\| \leq \delta \quad (3.4)$$

*and  $\overline{f_0^\epsilon(b')Bf_0^\epsilon(b')}$  contains a projection  $p$ , then  $\overline{f_1^\epsilon(b)Bf_1^\epsilon(b)}$  contains a projection which is Murray-von Neumann equivalent to  $p$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\delta > 0$  be so small that  $\overline{yBy}$  contains a projection Murray-von Neumann equivalent to  $q$  whenever  $x, y, q$  are positive contractions in a  $C^*$ -algebra  $B$  such that  $q$  is a projection and  $\|xyx - q\| \leq \delta$ . This  $\delta$  will work because  $f_1^\epsilon(b')p = p$  and it follows therefore from (3.4) that  $\|pf_1^\epsilon(b)p - p\| \leq \delta$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* The general setup for the proof is the following. Let  $A_\infty$  be the inductive limit of the sequence

$$A \xrightarrow{\beta} A \xrightarrow{\beta} A \xrightarrow{\beta} \dots \quad (3.5)$$

We can then define an automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $A_\infty$  such that  $\alpha \circ \rho_{\infty,n} = \rho_{\infty,n} \circ \beta$ , where  $\rho_{\infty,n} : A \rightarrow A_\infty$  is the canonical  $*$ -homomorphism from the  $n$ 'th level in the sequence (3.5) into the inductive limit algebra. In this notation the inverse of  $\alpha$  is defined such that  $\alpha^{-1} \circ \rho_{\infty,n} = \rho_{\infty,n+1}$ . Let  $e \in A_\infty$  be the projection  $e = \rho_{\infty,1}(1)$  which is a full projection of  $A_\infty$  by assumption i) and hence also a full projection of the crossed product  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$ . By a result of Stacey, [St], there is an isomorphism  $A \times_\beta \mathbb{N} \rightarrow e(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})e$  sending  $a \in A$  to  $\rho_{\infty,1}(a)$  and the canonical isometry  $v \in A \times_\beta \mathbb{N}$  to  $eue$  where  $u$  is the canonical unitary in the multiplier algebra of  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$ . Note that  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  is stably isomorphic to  $A \times_\beta \mathbb{N}$  and hence simple by assumption. Thanks to condition i) the unit of  $\rho_{\infty,k}(A)$  is full in  $\rho_{\infty,k+1}(A)$  so that the sequence  $B_k = \rho_{\infty,k}(A), k = 1, 2, \dots$ , will have properties required in Lemma 3.4. Furthermore, it follows from condition ii) that there can not be any non-zero densely defined lower semi-continuous  $\alpha$ -invariant trace on  $A_\infty$ ; because if there was it would have to be non-zero on some  $B_k$  and it would then give rise to a  $\beta$ -invariant trace state on  $A$ . In this way it follows from Lemma 3.4 that every full projection of  $A_\infty$  is infinite in  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$ . In fact, the same argument shows that a full projection in  $M_k(A_\infty)$  is infinite in  $M_k(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We make now the following

*Assertion 3.6.* Let  $h \in A_\infty \setminus \{0\}$  be a positive contraction. It follows that  $\overline{h(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})h}$  contains an infinite projection.

Assuming that Assertion 3.6 holds the proof of Theorem 1.1 is completed as follows. Let  $b \in (A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}) \setminus \{0\}$  be a positive contraction. Let  $E : A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow A_\infty$  be the canonical conditional expectation. Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . As in the proof of Lemma 2.4 of [R2] we can find positive elements  $a, x \in A_\infty$  such that  $\|a\| \geq 1 - \epsilon$ ,  $\|x\| \leq 1$  and  $\|E(b)\|^{-1}xbx - a\| \leq \epsilon$ . The only change we have to make to Rørdams argument is to replace the lemma of Kishimoto used by him with Lemma 7.1 of [OP2]. Some backtracking through the work of Olesen and Pedersen is needed to verify that Lemma 7.1 of [OP2] applies. What is needed is to show that the simplicity of  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  forces all the automorphisms  $\alpha^n, n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ , to be properly outer since this is the assumption in Lemma 7.1 of [OP2]. This follows from the implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (vi) of Theorem 10.4 in [OP2] since the Connes spectrum  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  is the whole circle by Proposition 6.3 in [OP1].

Having the element  $a$ , set  $a' = f(a)$  where  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a continuous function such that  $f(t) = 1, t \in [1 - 2\epsilon, 1]$  and  $|f(t) - t| \leq 2\epsilon$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ . Then  $\|a' - a\| \leq 2\epsilon$  and spectral theory gives us a positive element  $h \in A_\infty$  such that  $\|h\| = 1$  and  $a'h = h$ . It follows now from Assertion 3.6 that  $\overline{h(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})h}$  contains an infinite projection  $p$ . Since  $\| \|E(b)\|^{-1}xbx - a'\| \leq 3\epsilon$  and  $a'p = p$  we find that  $\| \|E(b)\|^{-1}p b x p - p\| \leq 3\epsilon$ . Thus, if only  $\epsilon$  is small enough  $\|E(b)\|^{-1}\sqrt{b}xpx\sqrt{b}$  will be close to a projection in  $\overline{b(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})b}$  which is Murray-von Neumann equivalent to  $p$  and hence infinite. This shows that  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$  is purely infinite, and the same is  $A \times_\beta \mathbb{N}$  since it is stably isomorphic to  $A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}$ , cf. Proposition 5.5 of [PS].

It remains to prove Assertion 3.6: Since  $A_\infty = \overline{\bigcup_n \rho_{\infty,n}(A)}$  an approximation argument based on Lemma 3.5 shows that we may assume that  $h \in \rho_{\infty,n_0}(A)$  for some  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set  $A' = \rho_{\infty,n_0}(1)A_\infty\rho_{\infty,n_0}(1)$  and note that  $uA'u^* \subseteq A'$ .

Deviating slightly from the notation used so far, let  $T(A_\infty)$  denote the set of densely defined lower semi continuous traces  $\omega$  on  $A_\infty$  such that  $\omega(e) = 1$ . This is a compact space in a topology described before Lemma 3 of [Th2] which is the same topology it gets through the identification of  $T(A_\infty)$  with the tracial state space  $T(eA_\infty e)$ . Since  $h \leq \rho_{\infty,n_0}(1)$  it follows that  $\omega \mapsto \omega(u^k h u^{*k})$  is continuous on  $T(A_\infty)$  for all  $k$ . We claim that there is an  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\omega(h + uhu^* + u^2hu^{*2} + u^3hu^{*3} + \cdots + u^mhu^{*m}) > 0 \quad (3.6)$$

for all  $\omega \in T(A_\infty)$ . Indeed, if not there is for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  a trace  $\omega_n \in T(A_\infty)$  such that

$$\omega_n(h + uhu^* + u^2hu^{*2} + u^3hu^{*3} + \cdots + u^nhu^{*n}) = 0.$$

A condensation point of  $\{\omega_n\}$  in  $T(A_\infty)$  will be a densely defined lower semi continuous trace  $\omega$  such that  $\omega(u^nhu^{*n}) = 0$  for all  $n$ . Then  $\{x \in A_\infty : \omega(u^nx^*xu^{*n}) = 0 \ \forall n\}$  is a non-zero closed two-sided ideal  $I$  in  $A_\infty$  such that  $\alpha(I) \subseteq I$ . As in b) from the proof of Lemma 3.4 this implies that  $I = A_\infty$ , which is impossible since  $e \notin I$ . This proves the claim.

Let  $T(A')$  be the tracial state space of  $A'$ . Since  $\beta(1)$  is full in  $A$  it follows that  $\rho_{\infty,n_0}(1)$  is a full projection in  $A_\infty$  so any  $\omega \in T(A')$  is the restriction to  $A'$  of a densely defined lower semi-continuous trace on  $A_\infty$ , cf. Theorem 5.2.7 of [Pe]. It follows therefore from (3.6) that

$$\omega(h + uhu^* + u^2hu^{*2} + u^3hu^{*3} + \cdots + u^mhu^{*m}) > 0$$

for all  $\omega \in T(A')$ . By compactness of  $T(A')$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\omega(h + uhu^* + u^2hu^{*2} + u^3hu^{*3} + \cdots + u^mhu^{*m}) \geq \delta$$

for all  $\tau \in T(A')$ . Since  $A \simeq \rho_{\infty,n_0}(A)$  is tracially almost divisible by Proposition 2.3 and since  $\rho_{\infty,n_0}(A)$  is a unital  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $A'$  which contains  $h$  there is a  $\delta' > 0$  with the property that for any  $\epsilon_1 > 0$  there are orthogonal positive elements  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_{m+1}$  in  $A'$  such that  $h_1 + h_2 + \cdots + h_{m+1} \preceq h$  in  $A'$  and  $\tau(h_i) \geq \delta'\tau(h) - \epsilon_1$  for all  $i$  and all  $\tau \in T(A')$ . Let  $\tau' \in T(M_{m+1}(A'))$  - the tracial state space of  $M_{m+1}(A')$ . Then  $\tau' = \tau \otimes \text{tr}$  for some  $\tau \in T(A')$ , where  $\text{tr}$  is the trace state of

$M_{m+1}$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \tau' \begin{pmatrix} h_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & uh_2u^* & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & u^m h_{m+1} u^{*m} \end{pmatrix} &= \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} \tau(u^{j-1} h_j u^{*j-1}) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} (\delta' \tau(u^{j-1} h_j u^{*j-1}) - \tau(\rho_{\infty, n}(\beta^{j-1}(1))) \epsilon_1) \\ &\geq \frac{\delta \delta'}{m+1} - \epsilon_1 \left( \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} \tau(\rho_{\infty, n}(\beta^{j-1}(1))) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $\epsilon_1 > 0$  such that

$$\delta_1 = \frac{\delta \delta'}{m+1} - \epsilon_1 \sup_{\omega \in T(A')} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} \omega(\rho_{\infty, n}(\beta^{j-1}(1))) \right) > 0.$$

Set

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} h_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & uh_2u^* & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & u^m h_{m+1} u^m \end{pmatrix}$$

and notice that  $\tau(H) \geq \delta_1$  for all  $\tau \in T(M_{m+1}(A'))$ . Let  $\epsilon_0 \in ]0, \frac{1}{4}[$  be so small that

$$\tau(f_0^{\epsilon_0}(H)) \geq \frac{\delta_1}{2} \quad (3.7)$$

for all  $\tau \in T(M_{m+1}(A'))$ . It may or may not be the case that  $A'$  is an AH-algebra with slow dimension growth, but since  $A$  has these properties and since

$$A' = \overline{\bigcup_{k \geq n_0} \rho_{\infty, n_0}(1) \rho_{\infty, k}(A) \rho_{\infty, n_0}(1)},$$

we can pick an increasing sequence  $F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq F_3 \subseteq \dots$  of finite subsets with dense union in  $A'$  and write  $A' = \overline{\bigcup_l A_l}$  such that each  $A_l$  is a homogeneous  $C^*$ -algebra with  $\rho_{\infty, n_0}(1) \in A_l$  and  $F_l \subseteq_{\frac{1}{l}} A_l$ , meaning that every element of  $F_l$  has distance less than  $\frac{1}{l}$  to an element of  $A_l$ , and such that  $\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} r(A_l) = 0$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . We can then find  $n_\epsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  and for each  $l \geq n_\epsilon$  a positive contraction  $k_l \in M_{m+1}(A_l)$  such that

$$\|f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) - f_1^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)\| \leq \epsilon \quad (3.8)$$

and

$$\|f_0^{\epsilon_0}(H) - f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)\| \leq \frac{\delta_1}{6}.$$

In particular, it follows from the last condition and (3.7) that there is an  $n'_\epsilon \geq n_\epsilon$  such that

$$\tau(f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)) \geq \frac{\delta_1}{4} \quad (3.9)$$

for all  $\tau \in T(M_{m+1}(A_l))$  and all  $l \geq n'_\epsilon$ . (This is proved by contradiction. If there are arbitrary large  $n_i$  for which  $T(M_{m+1}(A_{n_i}))$  contains an element  $\tau_{n_i}$  with  $\tau_{n_i}(f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_{n_i})) < \frac{\delta_1}{4}$ , consider a state extension  $\tilde{\tau}_{n_i}$  of  $\tau_{n_i}$  to  $M_{m+1}(A')$ . A weak\* condensation point of  $\{\tilde{\tau}_{n_i}\}$  will be an element of  $T(M_{m+1}(A'))$  for which (3.7) fails.)

Consider an  $l \geq n'_\epsilon$ . Let  $d_\tau : M_{m+1}(A_l)^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  denote the dimension function corresponding to  $\tau \in T(M_{m+1}(A_l))$ , i.e.  $d_\tau(a) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau(a^{\frac{1}{n}})$ . It follows then from (3.9)

$$d_\tau(f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)) \geq \frac{\delta_1}{4}.$$

Since  $\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} r(M_{m+1}(A_l)) = 0$  it follows from well-known properties of vector bundles, or from Theorem 2.4, that for all large  $l$  there is a projection  $p_l \in M_{m+1}(A_l)$  with constant rank 1 over the spectrum of  $A_l$ . Then  $d_\tau(p_l) \leq r(M_{m+1}(A_l))$  and hence

$$d_\tau(f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)) \geq \frac{\delta_1}{4} > \frac{r(M_{m+1}(A_l))}{2} + d_\tau(p_l)$$

for all  $\tau \in T(M_{m+1}(A_l))$  when  $l$  is large enough. Fix such an  $l$ . Theorem 2.4 gives us now a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $M_{m+1}(A_l)$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l) x_n^* = p_l.$$

Note that  $p_l$  is a full projection in  $M_{m+1}(A_\infty)$ . As pointed out in the beginning of the proof  $p_l$  is then an infinite projection in  $M_{m+1}(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})$ . Note also that  $\|x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)}\| \leq 2$  which combined with (3.8) implies that

$$\left\| x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} x_n^* - x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(k_l) \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} x_n^* \right\| \leq 4\epsilon$$

for all large  $n$ . Since  $f_1^{\epsilon_0} f_0^{\epsilon_0} = f_0^{\epsilon_0}$  we conclude that

$$\left\| x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} x_n^* - p_l \right\| \leq 5\epsilon$$

for all large  $n$ . Let  $X \in M_{m+1}(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})$  be the matrix

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_1) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ u f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_2) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u^m f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_{m+1}) & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $XX^* = f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H)$  since the  $h_i$ 's are mutually orthogonal and

$$X^*X = \text{diag} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_j), 0, 0, \dots, 0 \right),$$

i.e.  $f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) \sim X^*X$  in the sense of [KR] which implies that  $f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) \preceq X^*X$ . Since  $\sum_{j=1}^{m+1} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_j) = f_1^{\epsilon_0}(\sum_{j=1}^{m+1} h_j)$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^{m+1} h_j \preceq h$  it follows from Proposition 1.11 of [W] that there is an element  $h_0$  in the hereditary  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $A'$  generated by  $h$  such that  $\sum_{j=1}^{m+1} f_1^{\epsilon_0}(h_j) \preceq h_0$ . Thus  $f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H) \preceq h'_0$ , where  $h'_0 = \text{diag}(h_0, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ , i.e. there is a sequence  $\{z_n\}$  in  $M_{m+1}(A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z})$  such that  $\lim_n z_n h'_0 z_n^* = f_1^{\epsilon_0}(H)$ . Then

$$\left\| x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} z_{n'} h'_0 z_{n'}^* \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} x_n^* - p_l \right\| \leq 6\epsilon$$

when  $n'$  and  $n$  are sufficiently large and it follows that

$$\sqrt{h'_0} z_{n'}^* \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} x_n^* x_n \sqrt{f_0^{\epsilon_0}(k_l)} z_{n'}^* \sqrt{h'_0}$$

will be close to a projection in  $\overline{h'_0 M_{m+1} (A_\infty \times_\alpha \mathbb{Z}) h'_0}$  which is equivalent to  $p_l$ . Since  $p_l$  is infinite this gives us the desired projection, completing the proof of Assertion 3.6 and hence also the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

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